**BTR-DK-701A, 01 - Theme Related Lecture 1. Archaeology of the Medieval Middle East**

Regarded as the Cradle of Civilisations, the Near East fulfilled a decisive role in shaping the history and material culture of Europe even after the Muslim conquest. The new civilisation developed its peculiar forms and culture very fast on the fertile soil of Late Antiquity and restarted its intensive contacts with the western Mediterranean from the 11th century the latest. The class is intending to present the main cornerstones of this development and with the help of certain case studies show important aspects of the development of the medieval material culture and the archaeological research. Subjects like the question of the transition from Late Antiquity after the Islamic conquest; the main features of the Abbasid period material culture with special regard to the pottery; the development of Muslim military architecture and the material culture of the Crusader states in the Near East are all dealt with during the class. As most of the students of the English language class are from the Near East, a special emphasis is laid on the area of historical Syria, the cradle of Islamic civilisation.

**obligatory:**

Warwick Ball: *Rome in the East. The Transformation of an Empire.* London 2000. pp. 8-106; 397-450.

Paul Chevedden et al.: The Trebuchet. in: *Scientific American* (July 1995). pp. 66-71.

Hugh Kennedy: From Polis to Medina: Urban Change in Late Antique and Early Islamic Syria. in: *Past and Present* 106 (1985), pp. 3-27.

Yasser Tabbaa: The Muqarnas Dome: Its Origin and Meaning. in: *Muqarnas* 3 (1985) pp. 61-74.

Yasser Tabbaa: Circles of Power: Palace, Citadel and City in Ayyubid Aleppo. in: *Ars Orientalis* 23 (1993) pp. 181-200.

**recommended:**

Hugh Kennedy: *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates: the Islamic Near East from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century*. London 2004.

Balázs Major: *Medieval Rural Settlements in the Syrian Coastal Region (12th and 13th Centuries).* Oxford 2019. pp. 3-41; 151-163.

Kamal Salibi: *Syria under Islam (634-1097).* New York 1977.

Bethany Walker (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Archaeology*. Oxford 2020. pp. 17-148.